



King County

Department of Community and Human Services

Jackie MacLean, Director

401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 500
Seattle, WA 98104

(206) 263-9100 Fax (206) 296-5260
TTY Relay 711

Veteran Citizens Levy Oversight Board (VCLOB) Meeting Summary January 19, 2012 2-4 p.m. Greenwood Library 8016 Greenwood Ave. N., Seattle

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Doug Hoople at 2:05 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Doug Hoople - Chair, Cynthia Lefever, Robert Stephens, Jr., Bill Wood

Board Members Excused/Absent: Stan Gunno, Oren Hadaller, Kathy Lewis, Roger Welles

King County Staff Present: Joel Estey, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS); Debora Gay, DCHS; Laird Heia, DCHS; Marcy Kubbs, DCHS; Anna Markee, DCHS.

Guests: Jessie Benet, King County Mental Health Chemical Addiction and Dependency Services Division (MHCADSD); Andrea LaFazia-Geraghty, MHCADSD; Susan Schoeld, MHCADSD

Call to Order/Roll Call/Introductions

Doug welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked those present introduced themselves. Cynthia shared that her son Rory is recuperating well and thanked the board for their support.

Review of Meeting Summary

The October 20, 2011 VCLOB meeting summary was approved as written.

Veterans Justice Issues – Andrea LaFazia-Geraghty and Jessie Benet/MHCADSD

The 2012 King County Budget Ordinance 17232 included a proviso requiring the development of a report on the feasibility of establishing a veterans justice outreach (VJO) coordinator position in the Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division (MHCADSD) to implement a Veterans Justice Initiative for King County. The report is to be submitted to County Council on or before April 26, 2012. Andrea LaFazia-Geraghty and her team are responsible for developing the

report and attended the meeting today to discuss and how King County VJO Initiative aligns with the 2012-2017 Levy Activity 1.5 C, Emerging Veterans Justice Programs – King County Veterans Court.

Andrea shared that the purpose of the Veteran Justice Outreach (VJO) Initiative is to avoid the unnecessary criminalization of mental illness and extended incarceration among veterans. This is accomplished by ensuring eligible justice-involved veterans have timely access to Veterans Health Administration (VHA) mental health and substance abuse services when clinically indicated, and other Veterans Affairs (VA) services and benefits as appropriate. A handout on the Department of Veterans Affairs, Veteran Justice Outreach Initiative was shared with the board.

Jessie Benet of MHCADSD provided an overview of the King County Veterans Justice Outreach Initiative and function of the proposed King County VJO Coordinator. The three components are:

- Veterans Treatment Courts – The VJO Coordinator would work with the City of Seattle Municipal Court Veterans Treatment Court; assist in developing / implementing the King County District Court Regional Mental Health Court, Veterans Treatment Court, and work with the Federal VJO partner to coordinate the provision of VHA services.
- Coordination with Veterans Justice Services – The VJO would coordinate with various elements of the criminal justice system including jails, prosecutors, defense attorneys, courts, probation and Jail Health.
- Coordination with Existing Trainings – The VJO Coordinator would link justice system and treatment staff to existing training about Veterans and Veterans culture, and help ensure a justice-system context is incorporated in available training.

Debora Gay indicated the Service Improvement Plan (SIP) allotted \$150,000 in 2012 for Emerging Veterans Justice programs. In 2013, the allocation for these programs will rise to \$305,000 allowing for the development of a King County Veterans Treatment Court. Debora advised the board that a procurement plan for the Emerging Veterans Justice Issues will be presented to the board in February.

Discussion

One board member questioned whether the VJO Coordinator would be duplicating services provided by the Veterans Incarcerated Program (VIP). In response, Andrea clarified that the VIP provides case management but does not provide mental health support which would be available to Veterans enrolled in veteran's court programs. The VIP would continue to be one element program within the larger Veterans Justice Initiative.

Another member asked how many veterans would benefit from the King County VJO Initiative. Andrea indicated there are currently 2,400 people a day in the King County jails but data on the number of these that are veterans is limited. The national average is that veterans represent 10 – 15% of the jail population. Part of the responsibility of this position would be to improve data gathering in order to clarify how many veterans are in the jails in King County.

Board members expressed an interest in attending the pilot veterans' court to see it in action. Jessie indicated this court currently meets Tuesday's at 3:00 pm at the Seattle Municipal Court and will assist members who wish to attend.

Chairs Report – Douglas Hoople, Chair

Doug attended the recent RHSLOB meeting where he learned more about the Nurse Family Partnership and Healthy Start programs that are funded by the Human Services side of the Levy.

Election of VCLOB Leadership

The board nominated Douglas Hoople to continue as board chair. Doug accepted the nomination. Cynthia agreed to continue as vice-chair.

Staff Report – Marcy Kubbs/Debora Gay

- King County program managers will be updating the procurement plans for their Levy activities during 2012. They will be scheduled to appear before the boards throughout the year to share their revised plans and update the board on their program's progress and achievements.
- The Veterans Training Support Center (VTSC) part of the Edmonds Community College Center for Learning Connections, is funded by Levy Activity 3.2, Veteran and Trauma Competency Training Informed Care. The VTSC has several upcoming trainings for those who provide direct service to veterans and their family members. Staff will send out the link to their website.
- Debora Gay reported the VAB is preparing for elections. She asked that VCLOB members share that information with fellow veterans who might be interested in serving on that board.
- Debora also reported that Bill and Debra Wood worked quickly through their Veterans Service Organization (VSO) to obtain funding to pay a landlord who was about to evict a veteran tenant. The board thanked Bill and Debra for their support of this veteran.
- Joel Estey informed the board of a recent fraud issue aimed at senior citizens. Please be aware. Details of the scam include the following: Non-lawyers are selling insurance products and/or irrevocable trusts to disabled seniors with a purpose of shielding assets from the VA so as to gain acceptance for Aid and Attendance benefits. This appears to be an easy sale for the annuity sellers, who charge for the 'service' and get commissions from the trusts and annuities. However, the VA does not have a penalty for gifting assets. If you have complaints, please direct them to Brooks Clemmons at brooksc@atg.wa.gov or by phone at (509) 456-3282. You can also file a complaint with the Attorney General online at www.atg.wa.gov.

Old Business

None.

New Business

- The draft schedule of procurement plan presentations to the Levy boards was distributed.
- A question was raised about the use of any unspent 2006-2011 levy funds. Debora stated that by March the fiscal books will close and staff will have more information on remaining 2006-2011 Levy funds. Proposals would be developed at that time on what to do with remaining funds and presented to the Board for feedback and review.

Petitions/Communications (Public Comment)

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.